In the fnal text on climate change adaptation pre sented to Heads of State at COP15 by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG LCA), there was an explicit reference to the role of water resources management for climate change adaptation. This reference has been retained in the negotiating text prepared by the Chair of the

. The reference reads as follows:

[The Conference of the Parties,….

4. Invites all Parties to enhance adaptation action

Implementation] taking into account their common but differentiated responsibili e " mmat Ï

paragraph 6 below], to undertake, inter alia:

actions, including projects and programmes, and ac tions identifed in national and subnational adaptation

of action of least developed countries, national com munications, technology needs assessments and other relevant national planning documents;

Reference 1: Including, inter alia, in the areas of water resources; health; agriculture and food security; infra structure; socioeconomic activities; terrestrial, fresh water and marine ecosystems; and coastal zones.

The Water and Climate Coalition and partners call on Parties to support this language. It also calls for the refection of the following issues in any out come from COP16 in Mexico:

Climate change is to a great extent water change - water is the primary medium through which climate change impacts will be felt by humans and the environment. The Impact of Climate change on water cuts across all sectors. The IPCC states this clearly in its Technical Paper on Water and Climate Change .

land-use change. om

National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and any other country adaptation strategies must be developed in consultation with water resources managers and build on existing solutions available from Integrated Water Resources Management processes and plans. Any adaptation strategy should seek to catalyse implementation of IWRM processes or plans,

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Climate change impacts through the water cycle do not respect national and political boundaries. Adapta tion strategies must involve regional cooperation and develop regional responses to climate impacts on transboundary waters, in order to cope with the additional strains that changes in water availability will

Ecosystem-based Adaptation must form the founda tion of any adaptation strategy, because healthy ecosystems are critical natural infrastructure for water storage, food regulation and coastal defence. The availability of water resources depends on healthy ecosystems, and healthy ecosystems rely on a reliable supply of freshwater. Protecting, preserving and conserving ecosystems is critical to building resilience to climate change impacts on water resources.

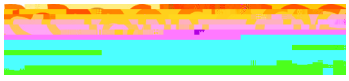
Water supply and sanitation is highly vulnerable to cli mate change impacts, both in terms of infrastructure resilience as well as the 'non-infrastructure' man agement and governance of supply. Water services infrastructure, including drinking water, waste water

and navigation is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Governance and management systems, in cluding maintenance, education, research, forecasting, are also highly vulnerable to climate-induced crises. Climate resilience must be built into water supply and sanitation now if the MDG target to halve the number of people without access to water and sanitation by 2015 is to be met sustainably.

part of poverty reduction and the impact of cli mate change on water resources therefore needs to be considered on all levels in order to achieve the MDGs. Small scale farmers feed one third of the world's population and need particular attention as they rely on rainfall and small scale irrigation, with potential detrimental impact on the MDG target to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty under climate change. In this context gender issues need to be considered. With increased stress on water resources women and girls in poor communities are likely to spend more time collecting water, impacting on their ability to access education and jobs affecting the MDG target on gender equality.

National disaster risk reduction strategies must integrate water resources management. This helps to build preparedness to deal with extreme weather events and conditions that lead to foods, droughts and degraded water quality.

ter, such as hydropower and biofuels, must be approved only in the context of an integrated water resources management system that can identify whether par ticular developments are feasible, in addition to other appropriate social and environmental safeguards. The aim must be to avoid ‘maladaptation’ that reduces climate resilience, such as inducing future shortages of water for essential needs.

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